

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 9369

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP PL (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE -- SOME PROBABLE QUESTIONS

1. POLISH JOURNALISTS ARE GENERALLY WELL INFORMED ABOUT DOMESTIC
U.S. DEVELOPMENTS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICIES AND COMMITMENTS.
WE HAVE NO INDICATION FROM POLISH AUTHORITIES THAT THEY WILL
PERMIT ATTENDANCE BY POLISH JOURNALISTS OTHER THAN THOSE
REPRESENTING THE REGIME'S APPROVED MEDIA. THESE MAY BE EXPECTED
TO RAISE SOME OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

2. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT TO POLAND? WHY DO YOU
VISIT POLAND BEFORE YOU VISIT THE USSR OR ANY OTHER SOCIALIST
COUNTRY?

3. HOW DO YOU ASSESS U.S.-POLISH RELATIONS? WHAT HAVE BEEN THE
SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF THIS VISIT?

4. WHAT ARE YOUR PERCEPTIONS OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND WHAT
ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT ON CONTROL AND REDUCTION OF
ARMAMENTS? POLISH MEDIA HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE TREATMENT TO
THE CRUISE MISSILE AND THE NEUTRON BOMB, AND QUESTIONS MAY
BE RAISED ABOUT U.S. POLICIES CONCERNING THOSE WEAPONS.

5. POLISH MEDIA HAVE EXTENSIVELY COVERED ADVERSE ECONOMIC
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 09369 271011Z

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE U.S., SPECIFICALLY, UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION,
AND THE UNFAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE. ALTHOUGH SOME IDEOLOGUES
CLEARLY ARE MOTIVATED BY ANTI-CAPITALISTIC CONSIDERATIONS AND
WISH TO PUBLICIZE AS MANY UNFAVORABLE STORIES ABOUT THE U.S.
AS POSSIBLE, THERE IS A MORE IMPORTANT AND SYMPATHETIC CONCERN
WITH THE HEALTH OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY, SINCE THE SUCCESS OF
THE REGIME'S OWN ECONOMIC PLANS IS SO DEPENDENT UPON THE INTER-

NATIONAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE AND COOPERATION WITH THE U.S.

6. THE DEBATE IN THE U.S. ON ENERGY POLICY HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY COVERED BY POLISH MEDIA, AND THE PRESIDENT MAY BE ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE PROSPECTS FOR ENERGY LEGISLATION. SINCE POLAND IS A LEADING COAL PRODUCER AND WANTS TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. IN THE FIELD OF CARBOCHEMICALS, THIS INTEREST IS MORE THAN ACADEMIC.

7. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT NON-ESTABLISHMENT JOURNALISTS WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. AWARE OF THEIR EXCLUSION, WESTERN JOURNALISTS MAY CALL ATTENTION TO THEIR ABSENCE AND RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT CENSORSHIP OF THE POLISH PRESS AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS UPON INDIVIDUAL EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. INDEED, WESTERN JOURNALISTS MAY POSE QUESTIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN RAISED BY THE EXCLUDED POLISH JOURNALISTS: HOW FIRM IS YOUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS WHEN YOU COOPERATE WITH A REGIME THAT DENIES THOSE RIGHTS TO ITS CITIZENS? WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR VISIT FOR POLES -- 32 MILLION OUT OF 34 MILLION -- WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY? DOES YOUR VISIT CONFIRM U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET DOMINATION OF POLAND? WHAT IS THE U.S. ATTITUDE CONCERNING THE REFUSAL OF POLISH AUTHORITIES TO PERMIT THEIR CITIZENS TO EMIGRATE TO JOIN MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES ABROAD?

8. IN ANSWERING, THE PRESIDENT SHOULD FOCUS ON THE HELSINKI
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PAGE 03 WARSAW 09369 271011Z

FINAL ACT AND THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE AND OUR INTENTION TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE FOR FULFILLMENT OF THE HUMAN-RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT. THE PRESIDENT TREATED THIS JUST RIGHT IN THE OPENING STATEMENT TO HIS DECEMBER 15 PRESS CONFERENCE.
DAVIES

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